

REMARKS

Foreign Priority

The acknowledgement, in the Office Action, of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received, is noted with appreciation.

Status Of Application

Claims 1-13 were pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1, 6, 9, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,649,244 to Sato et al (hereinafter the "Sato Patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,929,862 to Barkans (hereinafter the "Barkans Patent").

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sato Patent and the Barkans Patent as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,708 to Kajita (hereinafter the "Kajita Patent").

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sato Patent and the Barkans Patent as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,535 to Knodt et al (hereinafter the "Knodt Patent").

Claims 14-31 are added by this amendment.

Drawings

The indication, in the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, that the Official Draftsperson has no objections to the drawings, is noted with appreciation.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. In addition, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to correct errors in

grammar and form. Claims 5-12 have been amended to correct errors in grammar and form, and also to conform to changes in claim 1, from which they depend.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

The rejection of claims 1, 6, 9, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Sato Patent in view of the Barkans Patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

The Sato Patent shows a camera with a plurality of operational modes. The characteristics of those modes are controlled, in part, by a plurality of buttons on the upper left portion of the camera (20). Each of these buttons has a distinguishing color. The camera also includes a display device (50) that displays the status of these modes as well as other information. Display device 50 includes several color filters overlaid on the display device (layer 54 in figure 4, which corresponds to regions 5401, 5402, 5403, 5404, 5408, 5410, 5411, and 5415 in figure 5). These color filters are positioned over elements of the display corresponding to different operational characteristics and are coordinated with the colors of the buttons in section 20 (column 9, lines 40-56). The color filters allow a photographer to quickly locate the portion of the display of concern. Of importance, the color filters are permanently fixed.

The Barkans Patent shows a graphical display system for a computer. The portion of Barkans cited in the rejection shows that a color signal may be contained in digital memory to control the color on a display device, in this case a computer monitor.

In contrast to the prior art, Claim 1, as amended, includes,

a display device for displaying information, the display device displaying information in a plurality of colors *in response to a color display signal*; and
control means for determining the operational mode of the image forming apparatus and providing a *color display signal to the display device in response to the operational mode* to control the color to be displayed on said display device.

(Emphasis added.) Thus, the color of a portion or all of the display device may be *changed* in response to the operational mode of the apparatus. This allows the user to rapidly determine the operational mode of the apparatus by the displayed color. This determination is more rapid than with prior devices because there is no need to read the displayed characters. With the camera of the Sato Patent, the user can locate the area of the display of concern using the color of that area. However, the user must still read the characters displayed in that area. Because the overlays in the Sato Patent are permanent and cannot be changed, there is no suggestion in the reference of a system that allows changing the color in response to the change of mode. In addition, the teaching of the Barkans Patent cannot be combined with the Sato Patent because the color control features of Barkans are not useful with fixed color filters.

Similarly, Claim 13 includes, as amended:

a display device, the display device displaying information regarding the operation of the image forming apparatus and the display device displaying a plurality of colors in response to a display color signal; and

control means for determining at least one operational characteristic of the image forming apparatus and providing an information display signal to the display device causing the display device to display information indicating a status of the operational characteristic and the control means providing the display color signal in response to determining the operational mode of the image forming section.

As explained with regard to Claim 1, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing the display color to indicate the changed mode. Therefore, claims 1 and 13, and dependent claims 6 and 9 are patentably distinct from the prior art.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 6, 9, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Sato Patent in view of the Barkans Patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, 8, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Sato Patent and the Barkans Patent as applied to claim 1, and further in view of the Kajita Patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

The Kajita Patent describes a system using two way communication from a scanning/copier device and computers connected to the device via a data network. Kajita does not show or suggest the use of color in a display. As noted above, the Sato Patent and the Barkans Patent do not show or suggest changing a display color to indicate a changed operational mode as claimed in claim 1. Thus, the cited references do not show or suggest claims 2, 3, 7, 8, and 10-12, which depend from claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, 8, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Sato Patent and the Barkans Patent in view of the Kajita Patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Sato Patent and the Barkans Patent as applied to claim 1, and further in view of the Knodt Patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

The Knodt Patent shows a display for a multi-mode device that provides an animated indicator to show device activity. Active connections are darkened to indicate that activity (column 4, lines 45-59). Knodt does not show or suggest the use of color in a display. As noted above, the Sato Patent and the Barkans Patent do not show or suggest changing a display color to indicate a changed operational mode as claimed in claim 1. Thus, the cited references do not show or suggest claims 4 and 5, which depend from claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Sato Patent and the Barkans Patent as applied to claim 1, and further in view of the Knodt Patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 15-25 depend from new claim 14. New claim 14 includes:

a display device for displaying information, the display device displaying information in a plurality of colors *in response to a color display signal*; and
control means for determining the operational mode of the image processing device and providing *a color display signal to the display device in response to the operational mode* to control the color to be displayed on said display device.

(Emphasis added.) As noted above with regard to claims 1 and 13, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing a color in response to a mode change of the device. Therefore, claim 14 and dependent claims 15-25 are patentably distinct from the prior art.

New claims 27 and 28 depend from new claim 26. New claim 26 includes:

a display device, the display device displaying information regarding the operation of the image processing device and the display device displaying a plurality of colors *in response to a display color signal*; and
control means for determining at least one operational characteristic of the image processing device and providing an information display signal to the display device causing the display device to display information indicating a status of the operational characteristic and the control means *providing the display color signal in response to determining the operational mode* of the image processing section.

(Emphasis added.) As noted above with regard to claims 1 and 13, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing a color in response to a mode change of the device. Therefore, claim 26 and dependent claims 27 and 28 are patentably distinct from the prior art.

New claims 30 and 31 depend from new claim 29. New claim 29 includes:

a display device, the display device displaying information regarding the operation of the image processing device and the display

device displaying a plurality of colors in response to a display color signal; and

control means for determining at least one operational characteristic of the image processing device and providing an information display signal to the display device causing the display device to display information indicating a status of the operational characteristic and the *control means providing a display color signal of a first value in response to the image processing section being in the first operational mode, a display color signal of a second value in response to the image processing section being in the second operational mode and a color display signal of a third value in response to the image processing section being in the third operational mode.*

(Emphasis added.) As noted above with regard to claims 1 and 13, the cited prior art does not show or suggest changing a color in response to a mode change of the device. Therefore, claim 29 and dependent claims 30 and 31 are patentably distinct from the prior art.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by three (3) to five (5) from two (2) independent claims and increases the total number of claims by eighteen (18) to thirty-one (31) from thirteen (13), but does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, a Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form authorizing the amount of \$358.00 to be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood Deposit Account No.18-1260 is enclosed herewith in duplicate. However, if the Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form is missing, insufficient, or otherwise inadequate, or if a fee, other than the issue fee, is required during the pendency of this application, please charge such fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood Deposit Account No.18-1260. Please credit any overpayment to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

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If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following is a marked-up version of the changes to the claims which are being made in the attached response to the Office Action dated March 14, 2001.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Once Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming section for forming an image in a plurality of operational modes;
a display device for [executing display] displaying information, the display device displaying information in a plurality of colors in response to a color display signal; and
[a memory which stores color information corresponding to the plurality of operational modes; and]
control means for [reading color information corresponding to an operational mode to be executed from said memory] determining the operational mode of the image forming apparatus and providing a color display signal to the display device in response to the operational mode to control the color to be displayed on said display device.
5. (Once Amended) [A] An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:
a facsimile control section for sending and receiving the image data through communication lines,
wherein said plurality of operational modes include a facsimile operation which is executed by using said facsimile control section.
6. (Once Amended) [A] An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means sets a background color of said display device [according to the color information.] in response to the color display signal.

7. (Once Amended) [A] An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

setting means for setting an [image-forming] image forming condition regarding [a first function,] at least one of the operational modes,

wherein said plurality of operational modes include [an unset] a reset mode in which setting has not been performed by said setting means and [a first setting] at least one mode in which setting has been performed by said setting means.

8. (Once Amended) [A] An image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said setting means is also capable of setting [an image-forming] a second image forming condition [regarding a second function], and said plurality of operational modes include a second setting mode in which [a condition of] said second [function] image forming condition has been set.

9. (Once Amended) [A] An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

program registration means for registering a plurality of combinations of [image-forming] image forming conditions; and

setting means for setting an operational mode by calling a combination of [image-forming] image forming conditions registered by said program registration means.

10. (Once Amended) [A] An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

first setting means for setting [an image-forming] a first image forming condition regarding a first function, and

second setting means for setting [an image-forming] a second image forming condition regarding a second function in association with said [image-forming] first image forming condition [set by said first setting means].

11. (Once Amended) [A] An image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the [image-forming] first image forming condition [regarding said first function]

and the [image-forming] second image forming condition [regarding said second function] are simultaneously displayed in sectionalized regions of a screen of said display device, and said regions are displayed in different colors.

12. (Once Amended) [A] An image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a background color of each of said sectionalized regions is set according to the color [information.] display signal.

13. (Once Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming section for forming an image in a plurality of operational modes;

a display [device for performing display in a plurality of display modes;] device, the display device displaying information regarding the operation of the image forming apparatus and the display device displaying a plurality of colors in response to a display color signal; and

[a memory which stores display mode information corresponding to said plurality of operational modes; and]

control means for [reading display mode information corresponding to an operational mode to be executed from said memory to control the display mode of said display device.] determining at least one operational characteristic of the image forming apparatus and providing an information display signal to the display device causing the display device to display information indicating a status of the operational characteristic and the control means providing the display color signal in response to determining the operational mode of the image forming section.

Claims 14-31 have been added.